

Everglades

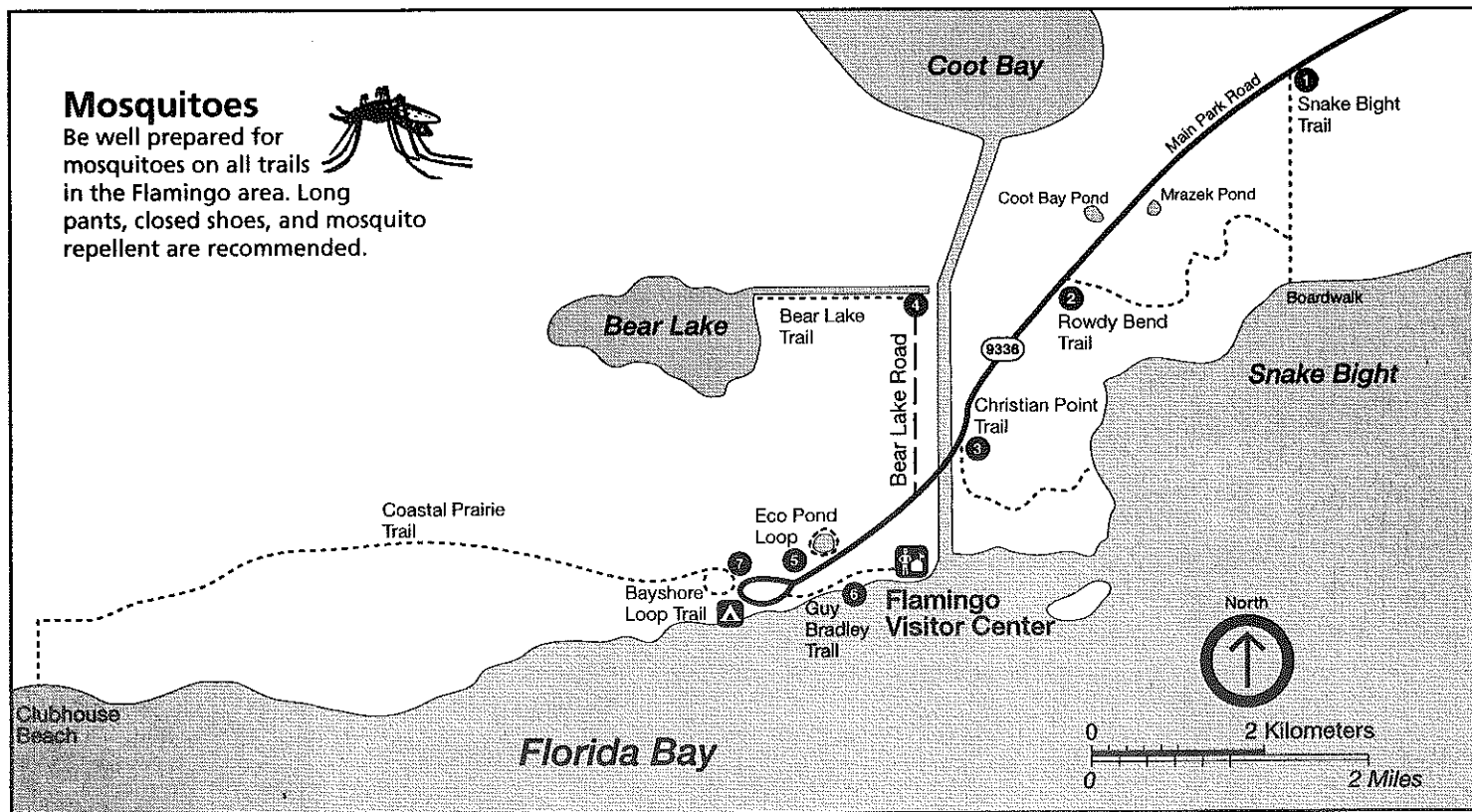
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Everglades National Park



Flamingo Hiking Trails

Mosquitoes

Be well prepared for mosquitoes on all trails in the Flamingo area. Long pants, closed shoes, and mosquito repellent are recommended.



1 Snake Bight

1.8 miles one way

Don't let the name deter you! In this play on words, a "bight" is actually a bay (Snake Bight) within a larger bay (Florida Bay). Enter another world as you travel through a tropical hardwood hammock, with dozens of tropical tree species. There is excellent bird watching from the boardwalk at the end of trail if you plan your hike or bike ride to arrive near high tide (tide charts available at the visitor center).

2 Rowdy Bend

2.6 miles one way

Explore an overgrown old road bed through shady buttonwoods and open coastal prairie. This is an opportunity for good woodland bird watching. Combine this trail with the Main Park Road (use caution!) and the Snake Bight Trail for a 12.6 mile round-trip bike ride from the Flamingo Visitor Center.

3 Christian Point

1.8 miles one way

Wander a rustic path through a wide diversity of habitats. The trail begins in dense mangroves and buttonwoods full of bromeliads, or airplants. Next, investigate the unusual, salt-loving vegetation of open coastal prairie. Dead buttonwood snags interrupt these

expanses that were shaped by hurricanes. Finally, you'll end-up along the shore of Snake Bight, best viewed near high tide.

4 Bear Lake

Trail: 1.6 miles one way

Road: 2 miles one way (road only)

Journey through a dense hardwood hammock mixed with mangroves. The trail follows the old Homestead Canal, built in 1922, and is an excellent area for woodland birds. There are more than 50 different tree species. Bike, drive, or walk to the end of Bear Lake Road to begin this trail, which ends at Bear Lake.

5 Eco Pond

1/2 mile loop

A must-see while in Flamingo! Eco Pond is famous for its bird watching opportunities. Stroll around this freshwater pond and enjoy a wide variety of wading birds, song birds, ducks, and other wildlife. Alligators and even Florida softshell turtles often cruise the pond. The ramped viewing platform is especially nice near sunrise and sunset, when flocks of wading birds fly to and from the pond.

6 Guy Bradley

1 mile to campground amphitheater
Mingle with a variety of birds and butterflies,

as you amble along the shore of Florida Bay. Old pier pilings are a reminder that Flamingo was once a small fishing village. The trail was named for Audubon warden Guy Bradley, murdered in 1905 by plume hunters while trying to protect a bird rookery in Florida Bay. This is a scenic shortcut between the campground day-use area and the visitor center.

7 Bayshore Loop

2 mile loop

Meander along the shore of Florida Bay, watching for remnants of an outpost fishing village. Begin at the Coastal Prairie trailhead at the back of Loop "C" in the campground. Veer left at the trail junction to the bay.

7 Coastal Prairie

7.5 miles one way

Step back in time as you walk this old road once used by cotton pickers and fishermen. Open prairies of succulent coastal plants dotted with shady buttonwoods surround you as you journey towards the shore of Florida Bay. Begin at the rear of Loop "C" in the campground. A backcountry permit is required for camping at Clubhouse Beach.

Bicycles permitted, but always be cautious for hikers on these sometimes winding trails.